

REMARKS

Please reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1, 4-13, 16, and 19-32 were pending in this application. Claims 10-13, 19-22, 25, and 26 have been canceled by way of this reply. Thus, claims 1, 4-9, 16, 23, 24, and 27-32 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 16 are independent. Claims 4-9, 23, and 24 depend directly from claim 1. Claims 27-32 depend directly from claim 16.

Amendments to the Claims

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of the previously presented claims 10-12. Accordingly, claims 9-12 have been canceled. Claims 13, 19-22, 25, and 26 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 12 contains allowable subject matter. By way of this reply, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter from claim 12 and intervening claims 10 and 11. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claim 1 and dependent claims 4-8, 23, and 24 are placed in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4-5, 7-8 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,745,812 ("Amazeen"). As discussed above, independent claim 1 has been amended by way of this reply to incorporate allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant believes that this rejection is now moot and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Amazeen in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,094,192 ("Watson"). As discussed above, independent claim 1 has been amended by way of this reply to incorporate allowable subject matter. By virtue of its dependence from claim 1, claim 6 is also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant believes that this rejection is now moot and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

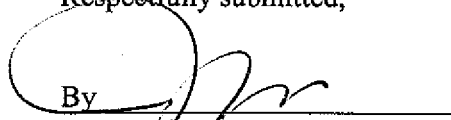
Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Amazeen in view of Japanese Patent No. 2838361 ("Osaka-Fu"). As discussed above, independent claim 1 has been amended by way of this reply to incorporate allowable subject matter. By virtue of its dependence from claim 1, claim 24 is also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant believes that this rejection is now moot and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 07700/066001).

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Jonathan P. Osha
Registration No.: 33,986
OSHA · LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant